

# PETROGRAD IS HELPLESS BEFORE KAISER'S HORDES

## LODGE DENOUNCES PRICE FIXING BY GOVERNMENT AS WORK OF AMATEURS

Massachusetts Senator Declares Food and Fuel Administrations Have Proven Abject Failures and Profiteering is General; Caused Complete Paralysis of Railroad Systems of Country.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Government price-fixing as a method of preventing profiteering has proved a failure, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts declared today in giving the senate the conclusions he had drawn from the recent investigations of the coal and sugar shortages.

In the case of coal, Senator Lodge said, price-fixing had only served to curtail production, while the food administration's price plan for sugar had kept western beet sugar from the eastern states and in the meantime retailers of coal and sugar had profiteered.

### BLAMES AMATEURS.

Blame for the coal shortage Senator Lodge laid to the fuel administration's price-fixing plan, together with railroad difficulties, and the closing order he described as a "complete confession of impotence and failure." He denounced the fuel administration as an "unnecessary agency" which was "composed largely of amateurs." The senator dealt in a milder manner with the food administration, and although asserting the fixing of the price of sugar was a "mistaken policy" and the sugar famine largely artificial, he added:

"In justice to Mr. Hoover, he made every effort to get rail distribution and get sugar. How much he was thwarted by the railroad situation and the tangle of priority orders I do not know, but I am certain that if he had been efficiently aided instead of being crossed by other commissions, there could have been no sugar famine in the eastern states."

### Fuel Administration Failure.

Discussing the procedure of the fuel administration, Senator Lodge said: "They fixed a price which made it impossible to work many mines, frightened the producer and tended to reduce production. 'Not content with this, they also set to work to change the whole system of distribution. No more reckless experiment could have been better calculated to make railroad difficulties almost insuperable. At a single blow they partially paralyzed all the machinery of distribution. Only ignorance of economic laws could be offered as an excuse."

The result of the fuel administration's policy was to add to the already enormous railroad difficulties by creating chaos in distribution and adding to all this suspense, alarm and uncertainty due to fixing an arbitrary price. "The system adopted by Mr. Hoover had at least the merit of maintaining production. The system of making a different coal price at each mine was impracticable. Even if they kept prices down, which is purely guesswork, they brought a coal famine with this nominal fixed price."

Incompetents in Control. Declaring that he did not believe the railroad problem could not have been solved, Senator Lodge continued: "But nothing can be more certain than that the policy of the fuel administration, its attempt to substitute a new scheme of distribution, its reckless price fixing, brought on a coal

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### The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair; colder.		
Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.		
Hour	Temp.	Wind
6 a. m.	36	36
7 a. m.	35	35
8 a. m.	34	34
9 a. m.	33	33
10 a. m.	32	32
11 a. m.	31	31
12 m.	30	30
1 p. m.	29	29
2 p. m.	28	28
3 p. m.	27	27
4 p. m.	26	26
5 p. m.	25	25
6 p. m.	24	24
7 p. m.	23	23
8 p. m.	22	22
9 p. m.	21	21
10 p. m.	20	20
11 p. m.	19	19
12 m.	18	18

Comparative Local Record.		
Year	High	Low
1918	42	26
1917	42	26
1916	42	26
1915	42	26
1914	42	26
1913	42	26
1912	42	26
1911	42	26
1910	42	26
1909	42	26
1908	42	26
1907	42	26
1906	42	26
1905	42	26
1904	42	26
1903	42	26
1902	42	26
1901	42	26
1900	42	26

Normal temperature... 27  
Excess for the day... 10  
Total deficiency since March 1, 1917... 614  
Normal precipitation... 42  
Excess for the day... 04  
Total precipitation since Mar. 1 22.42 inches  
Deficiency since March 1, 1917... 7.11 inches  
Deficiency for cor. period, 1916 13.13 inches  
Deficiency for cor. period, 1915... 0.97 inch  
Report From Stations at P. M.

## BREAK BETWEEN CENTRAL POWERS BELIEVED NEAR

Dispatch Refers to Meeting Between Emperors and Says There Is No Doubt of Serious Conflict.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Further evidence of the growing strain in relations between Germany and Austria is given in an official dispatch received here today from France. It quotes the Austrian premier as formally reiterating on February 20 that Austria-Hungary will take no part in military action against Russia or Roumania, and will not send her troops into Ukraine.

MAY USE VIOLENCE. The dispatch refers to the meeting between Emperor Charles and William, February 22, and says there seems little doubt that a serious conflict has arisen between the two nations which Germans is determined to settle by violent measures if necessary. The dispatch follows: "Charles I. paid a visit to William II. the 22d of February. Ludendorff was present at the interview. If we are to judge from the tone of the interview it must have been lacking in cordiality. There seems to be little doubt but what a serious conflict has broken out during the week between the courts of Vienna and Berlin and which Germany is determined to settle if need be by violent measures.

Distinguishes Policies. "The international situation of the dual monarchy is such that the Vienna government in order to avert a catastrophe has been obliged to distinguish its own policy from that of Germany. The report that at the conferences of February 14, Hertling and Ludendorff had decided to pay no attention to the Russian demobilization and to prepare to begin again the conflict on the east front caused a great stir throughout Austria. It was not simply the dissenting nationalities, the Czechs, the Slovenes, or the Poles who do not desire to fight any more, but it is the mass of the population of German origin who refuse to sacrifice themselves any longer to assure the triumph of Prussian imperialism.

"An official note of the 15th had announced that Austria for her part would continue to consider the war as terminated with Russia and would abstain from taking part in the operations planned by the German command. A second note of the 19th repeated the same statement. When asked to give further particulars at the sitting of the chamber on the 22d the Austrian premier formally stated:

Words Are Inexplicable. "The words uttered by different deputies have proved that the explanation which has been furnished up to the present by me, has not been sufficiently explicit. I repeat, therefore, that Austria-Hungary will participate in no way in the military action which is now being carried on by Germany against Russia. I repeat that the armistice exists between Austria-Hungary and Rumania and that we are only considering entering as early as possible into peace conversations with this country."

These declarations are serious. Without a doubt in his speech on the 19th of February, Seydler pleaded his fidelity to the alliance. But more and more Germany runs the risk of seeing Austria and after her Bulgaria and Turkey take a positive attitude and practically withdrawing from the struggle and witness as spectators the continuation of hostilities."

## Man Acts As His Own Lawyer in Federal Court

John Cammack acted as his own lawyer before United States Commissioner Neely to such good effect that he was discharged. He took two cartons of cigars from an interstate shipment at the Burlington freight station, where he was a trucker.

"The box was under the platform and already broken open and I just went down there and took a couple of cartons of 'smokes' and put them under cover and later took them home. I'd like to know where you can make a box car burglary out of that," declared Cammack.

## Caught!



## REVOLUTION WILL FIGHT TO DEATH IN DEFENSE OF RUSSIA

Petrograd Official Statement Announces Kaiser Has Refused to Grant Armistice; Declares Readiness to Sign "Peace Usurpation;" Predicts Revolution in Germany

London, Feb. 27.—The Russian revolution will defend itself against Germany, says an official Russian statement sent out by wireless, and which announces that Germany has refused to grant an armistice. The announcement reads:

## VESSEL DRIVEN BEFORE GALE IS BROKEN TO BITS

Thirty Officers and Enlisted Men Are Believed Drowned in Wreck Off Delaware Capes.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Thirty officers and enlisted men of the naval tug Cherokee are believed to have been lost when the vessel foundered yesterday morning in a fierce gale off Fenwick island lightship, 22 miles from the Delaware capes. Ten survivors who got away on the first life raft were safely landed; four other men got away on another raft, but two were washed overboard and drowned and the other two died, probably of exposure. The four bodies were taken into Philadelphia.

## \$25 Reward

For the arrest and conviction of George Nelson, who has been fraudulently collecting money for subscriptions to The Omaha Bee. He is not, and never has been, an authorized agent for The Bee. He is dark complexioned, has brown eyes, is short in stature and a stylish dresser. Has been operating in central Nebraska. BEE PUBLISHING CO.

## RUSS CAPITAL TO FALL EASY PREY TO GERMAN ARMY

Soldiers Flatly Refuse to Fight and Declare They Have Had Enough of War; Workmen Prepare to Resist, But They Are Unorganized and Without Military Training; Outlook Gloomy.

London, Feb. 27.—If special dispatches from Petrograd gauge accurately the situation there, the Germans are likely to find little difficulty in occupying the city with trained troops. Russian soldiers frankly refuse to fight and say, "we have had enough of fighting. If the Germans come let them take us."

## GERMANY PLANS TO DOMINATE ALL CENTRAL EUROPE

British Press Says Von Hertling's Peace Talk is Hypocritical in View of New War on Defenseless Russia.

London, Feb. 27.—As far as the British public is concerned the mild words of Count von Hertling concerning Germany's pacific intentions and his partial acceptance of President Wilson's basis for lasting world peace fall upon almost deaf ears.

A few weeks, even a few days, ago their reception would have been different, but German speech is judged here by German acts. All details of the new war against helpless Russia rob German statesmen of their stock in trade—the plea that Germany is waging a war of self-defense. The British press is virtually unanimous in the belief that the whole eastern situation has been cleverly arranged and plotted with a view to bringing eastern and central Europe under German domination and for the vital immediate purpose of getting food from the Ukraine. The most important newspapers which lean toward peace by negotiation, notably the Westminster Gazette and the Manchester Guardian, seem to have undergone a change of outlook as the result of the events of the last week. No Hope for Peace.

The Daily News today, although condemning the entente for aiding Von Hertling's argument that the entente, and not Germany, is the real obstacle to peace, because the allies have not jointly formulated war aims, says, in effect, that no hope can be drawn from the chancellor's speech. The evening newspapers see little hope for peace in Von Hertling's speech. "With what face, one wonders, can

## Army More Peaceful Than Home, Hubby Says

Martha Dargacewski charged in police court Wednesday morning that her husband, Peter, had urged her to have a previous decree of divorce annulled so that he might return and live with her, and thus claim exemption from the draft. But, she said, that after living a short time together, he had declared: "The army beats this; there's less fighting over there," and deserted her forthwith. Police Judge Fitzgerald asked Peter if he had any witnesses who would dare to say he worked. Peter replied that he did not. He was bound over to district court under \$500 bonds.

## War Department Spreads Areas For Training to Prevent Accidents

Washington, Feb. 27.—Immediate steps to reduce the number of collisions by student aviators by spreading out the training areas are about to be taken by the War department. It is planned to lay out flying fields in various directions from the training camps to which the student aviators would fly each day in a previously arranged schedule. It is believed this will eliminate crowding in the air. All things taken into consideration, however, War department officials feel that the number of accidents has not been unduly large. In order to hasten the government's aircraft program, authority has been given to commander spruce in the northwest wherever it may be found. The trees are being split where they lie, so that delivery to the government cut up mill, near Vancouver bar-

## THIRD LIBERTY LOAN DRIVE TO BE STARTED SOON

Rumblings of preparation for the third Liberty Loan campaign in Omaha and Nebraska are already beginning to be heard. Speakers who will make public talks boosting the campaign are called to meet in the Omaha Chamber of Commerce rooms Tuesday afternoon, March 5. Raymond G. Young, director of the speakers' bureau of the Liberty Loan committee of the Federal Reserve bank of Kansas City, will speak at a public affairs luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce on that day. At the afternoon meeting plans will be outlined for the speakers' part in the Liberty Loan drive. The speakers will appear at mass meetings, in churches and elsewhere, where they will cooperate with the four-minute men, whose speaking is confined to the theaters. Mr. Young has issued a call for volunteer speakers. He wants men who will speak either in their own community or who will tour a county, a district or the state. Men who can devote three or four days or a week to these tours are in particular demand.